Lord Krsna's Kidnapping of Rukmini

from *Krsna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead*
adapted by Krsna-krpa dasa

The ancient kingdom, Vidarbha,
A king named Bhismaka controlled.
He had five sons, and a daughter,
Who was about fourteen years old.

Rukmini was a gorgeous girl
And full of good qualities too.
Since the time she□d heard of Krsna
For her spouse, no other would do.

Krsna, the best of all persons,
Had likewise been told about her.
Noting her charming qualities,
He thought her a good wife for sure.

Relatives of King Bhismaka
Wanted the marriage to take place,
All but his eldest son Rukmi,
Who considered it a disgrace.

Rukmi had minimized Krsna,
Which proved a terrible mistake.
He declared the Prince of Cedi
The best match for Rukmini's sake.

Blind with paternal affection,
The King granted his son's request,
Although the King and the others
All thought it was not for the best.

Beautiful princess Rukmini,
Morose upon hearing the plan,
Chose to act diplomatically,
As a ksatriya's daughter can.

She sent to Dvaraka a brahman,
A very reliable man,
To take a letter to Krsna
Proposing an ingenious plan.

The brahman reached Krsna□s city.
The Lord greeted him with great care.
Then Lord Krsna humbly asked him
The reason for which he□d come there.

The brahman then began to read
The message Rukmini had sent,
With use of poetic license,
Now just listen to how it went:

"Oh, handsome, infallible, Krsna,
The fortunate who hear about You
Think of you always, free from cares,
And ultimately see You, too.

Because their hearts are filled with love,
Such people can see You within.
Thinking in this exemplary way,
All objects of desire they win.

Oh Lord 'cause I have heard of You,
One may think me shameless to say,
I've been simply captivated,
And my heart's been stolen away.

Don't think I'm just some dreaming girl,
Oh Mukunda, best among men,
Any women considered chaste
Would want You to be her husband.

Beloved of goddess Laksmi,
To Your devotees You're most kind,
Now I fall at Your lotus feet
To serve You with body and mind.

I've chosen You as my husband.
Kindly accept me as Your wife.
Oh, Krsna, please take care of me,
Before Sisupala gives me strife.

Come to Vidarbha, kidnap me,

And fight with Sisupala's army.
Dear unconquerable hero,
I'm confident of your victory.

You may say the marriage partner
Selected at my brother's plea
Because he is a great king's son
Is qualified enough for me.

The demigods outclass the kings,
And the best of all is Shambhu,
Yet he is worshipping Visnu,
Who is non-different from You.

Just to achieve Your favor,
Siva did penance all his life,
But I shall do it for lifetimes
To become Your beloved wife."

Rukmini's devotional service,
With focused determination,
Shows the only way to attain
Lord Krsna's association.

The brahman finished reciting
The message Rukmini had sent,
Then he requested Lord Krsna
To consider just what she meant.

"With careful deliberation
Please decide what You want to do,
But You had better act quickly
Since there is little time for You."

Lord Krsna was beaming with joy
From hearing Rukmini's note read.
He gladly shook the brahman's hand,
And disclosing His mind, He said:

"I'm glad Rukmini desires Me.
A better wife I will not find.

Indeed some nights I cannot sleep,
'Cause she is always on My mind.

This plan she marry Sisupala,
Made by kings who are hateful men,
Has made Me determined, indeed,
To teach them a needed lesson."

Learning the date of the marriage,
Krsna, at once prepared to go.
Somehow in just a single night,
He rode a thousand miles or so.

The time of the marriage drew near.
Rukmini felt acute distress.
Hearing no answer from Krsna,
She cried tears in helplessness.

While Rukmini was deep in thought,
She saw signs of good luck appear,
And then she saw the messenger,
Krsna sent to relieve her fear.

Feeling joyful within her heart,
She eagerly asked what was new.
Then she learned that Krsna had come
Promising to kidnap her, too.

Happy her wish would be fulfilled,
Lord Krsna she'd finally meet,
And grateful to the brahman,
She bowed down at his holy feet.

Following family tradition,
On her auspicious wedding day,
She went to the Durga temple
To offer worship and to pray.

Instead of begging from Durga
Some kind of material boon,
She asked to marry Lord Krsna,

Whose beauty surpasses the moon.

On her return from the temple,
Carefully adjusting her ring,
Within the crowd she saw Krsna,
Whose glories the brahmans sing.

Although she'd never seen Krsna,
The Lord was always on her mind,
And because of her devotion,
Krsna was quite easy to find.

Seizing the opportunity,
Lord Krsna placed her by His side.
Unconcerned with other princes,
He began His chariot ride.

Lord Balarama at once appeared
With soldiers of the Yadu clan,
As other princes grew enraged,
And heavy fighting then began.

Rukmini then became fearful,
Though glad Krsna stole her away,
And Krsna said to relieve her,
"My men will win without delay."

As the Yadus valiantly fought,
The opposing party gave in,
Except for Rukmini's brother,
Whose vision was clouded by sin.

Rukmi then tried to kill Krsna,
Whose potency he could not see,
And Krsna would have finished him,
Were it not for Rukmini's plea.

To chastise Rukmini's brother,
Krsna, with a sword, cut his hair
Making Prince Rukmi look funny,
With patches of hair, here and there.

Seeing her brother thus humbled,
The princess Rukmini felt sad.
Balarama then reminded her:
"By karma one gets good or bad.

Enjoyment and suffering come
From mistaking body for soul,
Better become Krsna conscious,
Which actually is our life's goal.

My dear sweet smiling Rukmini,
Try to give up your needless grief,
Take pleasure in Krsna□s service,
And feel transcendental relief."

To His city called Dvaraka,
Krsna returned with His first queen.
Krsna and Rukmini united:
A simply exquisite scene.

The residents, very well dressed,
Lotus faces blooming with glee,
Selected suitable presents
For Krsna and Queen Rukmini.

They decorated Dvaraka
For the auspicious wedding day.
Then distinguished guests arrived,
Many from a distance away.

This chivalrous act of Krsna's
Came to be expressed as a poem,
Being popularly recited,
It was known in every home.

The people hearing this pastime,
By great astonishment were seized,
And seeing Krsna and His queen,
All felt transcendentally pleased.

Lord Krsna is Narayana,
And Rukmini is Laksmiji.
There's no more beautiful couple
Than Krsna and His energy.

Seeing Krsna and Rukmini,
The Yadus felt endless pleasure,
And to worship Them even now,
Is a rare and priceless treasure.

All glories to Queen Rukmini! All glories to Lord Krsna!
All glories to His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, who kindly made Lord Krsna's beautiful pastimes accessible to all. Let us all offer our obeisances at his lotus feet again and again.